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NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1955
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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TELEPHONE: NEWTON ABBOT 715/6.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD, .

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1955.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year ended the 31st.
December, 1955.

The Death rate continues to be very much below the National level, especially after applying the Registrar General's factor for correction, due to the fact that there are many more older people in this District than are to be found in the more populous parts of the Country.

One hundred and thirty eight cases of Measles were notified during 1955 as opposed to eight cases in 1954. The incidence of Whooping Cough is surprisingly low only two cases having been notified as compared with ninety five in 1954.

Six cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year, in all except one of these cases there was no paralysis.

The seventeen cases of Dysentery which were notified were all associated in a single outbreak.

The position regarding pulmonary Tuberculosis continues to improve, twelve new cases occurring as opposed to twenty two in 1954. This fall is indicative of the improvement throughout the Country and notifications will inevitably tend to decrease as modern methods of diagnosis and treatment are brought more fully into use.

The problem associated with the aged population in this District becomes progressively more acute as each year passes.

More beds are slowly being provided by the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board for the elderly persons in need of care and attention, but the rate at which this additional accommodation is provided does not keep pace with the rapidly increasing demand, and, in consequence, the difficulty of finding beds for even the most urgent cases is becoming more acute each year.

Emergency action had to be taken in one case during the year to remove a person to hospital.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. H. Lane' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,153
Population Mid 1955	17,100
Population 1951 Census	16,393
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1955	138,166
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1955	140,946
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1955	552

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	119	105	224
Illegitimate	6	4	10
	<hr/> 125 <hr/>	<hr/> 109 <hr/>	<hr/> 234 <hr/>
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			13.68
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			14.09
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			12.58
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.34
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			15.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population			0.41
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births			29.04
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon			22.7
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			23.2

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 63.98 years, as against 69.22 years for 1954. The average age of all male deaths was 65.53 years and for female deaths 74.09 years.

	Male	Female	Total
	111	96	207
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			12.11
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			9.56
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.58
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			10.79
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			11.7

Infant Mortality

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	-	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births			25.64
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			24.1
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			24.9

Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	-	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births			21.37
Neo-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales			17.3

Maternal Mortality.

No Maternal deaths occurred during 1955 in this Urban District. Five Maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

DEATHS (continued)

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under four weeks	5	-
Infants under one year	1	-
1 -	-	-
5 -	-	-
15 -	1	-
25 -	2	2
45 -	30	16
65 -	37	21
75 and over	35	57
	<hr/> 111 <hr/>	<hr/> 96 <hr/>

Total: 207

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	111	96
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Other lymphatic and malignant neoplasms	20	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	11	21
Coronary disease, angina	25	15
	<hr/> 69 <hr/>	<hr/> 47 <hr/>
carried forward	69	47

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	69	47
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
Other heart disease	9	15
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Pneumonia	3	5
Bronchitis	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	14
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	-	1
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	1
	<hr/> 111 <hr/>	<hr/> 96 <hr/>

Total: 207.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Measles	74	64	138
Acute Poliomyelitis	5	1	6
Dysentery	11	6	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	2
Acute Pneumonia	2	3	5
Typhoid	-	1	1
Erysipelas	1	-	1
	<hr/> 95 <hr/>	<hr/> 80 <hr/>	<hr/> 175 <hr/>

Total: 175.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>		<u>CASES.</u>			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Infants under one year		-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	1
15	-	3	1	-	1
25	-	-	1	1	1
35	-	-	-	1	-
45	-	2	-	-	-
55	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over		2	-	1	-
		<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Total: 18.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in one case during 1955.

NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1955

STAFF:

Chief Sanitary Inspector

C. E. Pethick, F.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector

F. B. Elliott, M.S.I.A.,

Clerk

G. J. Ingram.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I submit herewith report on the work of my department for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

One of the major items dealt with during the year was the completion of the preliminary survey to enable the Council to formulate a programme for dealing with sub-standard dwellings. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 made provision for submitting to the Minister of Housing and Local Government proposals for dealing with houses which appear to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition. The Minister required an estimate of the total number of unfit houses in the area, the period the Council would need to secure the demolition of all these houses together with the Council's programme of action in relation to those houses during the next five years. The proposals agreed by the Council are detailed in the section of this report under the heading of Housing.

The year under review also saw the completion of a full year's working at the Abattoir. The number of animals killed were about 50% more than during the previous year's working under Ministry of Food control and four times the number of animals handled in 1938, the last complete year during which butchers carried out their own slaughtering. Slaughtering facilities were found to be adequate to deal with the throughput and have been improved during the year by the provision of an additional carcase splitting saw, installation of calf inflation equipment and providing a pig dehairing machine. Details of the numbers of animals slaughtered are shown on page 4 and it is again pleasing to be able to report 100% inspection of meat slaughtered in the urban district. The year also saw the publication of the long awaited Interdepartmental Report on Slaughtering Policy. The Committee examined the problem of concentration of slaughtering in the light of changes which had taken place since decontrol. It was originally contemplated that moderate concentration should be planned on a local basis, mainly concerned with local trade but it became apparent that there had been developments

which had greatly changed pre-war methods of trading and that a scheme which required a specified number of slaughterhouses planned to a capacity to serve the requirements of a defined locality could not accommodate new trading organisations established in the home killed meat trade and operating on a national basis or over wide areas of the country. The report also mentioned the location of slaughterhouses and gave an indication of the number of slaughterhouses which might be required of a type complying with the proposed standards. The number of slaughterhouse areas mentioned was 142 of which 5 were located in Devonshire, including one based on Newton Abbot and embracing a population of 193,000.

A further item of importance in connection with the inspection and supervision of food supplies was the making of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to come into operation on 1st January, 1956. The general scope of the Regulations covered specific requirements to prevent contamination of food, the provision of adequate facilities for hand washing and washing of equipment, conditions as to keeping of certain foods also the handling and transport of meat. The Regulations should do much to raise the standard of food hygiene and to bring backward members of the food trade, both employers and employees, more into line with others having an enlightened outlook in keeping with current technique and equipment.

DRAINAGE:

Details of supervision of drainage work where alterations, additions or reconstruction of drainage systems have taken place are as follows :-

Number of premises visited	93
Number of tests applied	138
Number of visits made	353

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

Changes in the occupation of factories and workshops in the district have resulted in 4 premises being deleted and 8 added to the register, the number contained in the register being 51.

The details in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service being as follows :-

1. <u>Inspections</u>	No. on register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	31	1	-	
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	31	42	3	-	
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6	4	-	-	
2. <u>Cases in which defects were found</u>	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Inspr.	Ref. by H.M. Inspr.	Prosecution
<u>No. of cases in which defects were found</u>					
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	-	2	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat: The total number of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir was 29,952. Details and the results of inspection are shown in the following tables :-

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Bullocks	2,665	2,721	2,933	3,032	2,545	2,919
Calves	2,383	2,961	2,487	2,132	7,392	9,053
Sheep	11,624	9,565	9,868	10,486	12,261	10,746
Pigs	394	876	715	1,579	4,210	7,234

	CATTLE (excluding Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
NUMBER KILLED	1,840	1,079	9,053	10,746	7,234
NUMBER INSPECTED	1,840	1,079	9,053	10,746	7,234
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcass condemned	-	6	11	56	10
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	764	336	39	778	531
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	41.5	31.7	0.5	7.8.	7.5
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcass condemned	10	14	8	-	7
(ii) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	125	118	-	-	176
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	7.3	12.3	0.09	-	2.5

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

Ice Cream. There has been no change in the number of producers of ice cream in the urban district, namely 2.

Regular samples were taken from these producers at the factories and also periodical samples of ice cream retailed in the town but produced elsewhere.

18 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination with the following results :-

Grade 1 - 8 samples,
Grade 2 - 6 samples,
Grade 3 - 4 samples,
Grade 4 - Nil.

Comparison with previous years is shown by the following table :-

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Grade 1	42.5%	63.2%	57%	57.6%	60%	44.5%
Grade 2	30%	13.2%	14.3%	42.4%	30%	33.3%
Grade 3	22.5%	5.2%	21.4%	Nil	10%	22.2%
Grade 4	.5%	18.4%	7.1%	Nil	Nil	Nil

Unsound Food: During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption :-

30 Bullock carcasses and offals,
21 Calf carcasses and offals,
58 Sheep carcasses and offals,
19 Pig carcasses and offals,
121 Bovine Heads,
157 Pig Heads,
3 Calf Heads,
3 Sheep Heads,
2,985 Organs and parts,
1,538 lbs. Beef,
194 lbs. Pork,
143 lbs. Mutton,
98 lbs. Veal,
251 tins Meat,
319 tins Fruit,
93 tins Peas,
43 tins Beans,
6 tins Carrots,
129 tins Tomatoes,
31 tins Soup,
54 tins Fish,
67 tins Milk,
8 tins Spaghetti,
2 tins Rice,

FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd).

Unsound Food (cont'd).

289 lbs. Milk Powder,
272 lbs. Fillets,
202 lbs. Sausages,
30 lbs. Pies and Sausages,
20 lbs. Margarine,
20 lbs. Imported Lamb Livers,
23 lbs. Poultry,
76 lbs. Bacon,
32 lbs. Toffees,
8 lbs. Butter,
6 lbs. Apples,
6 lbs. Flour,
159 pkts. Cheese Spread,
8 pkts. Cereals,
1 pkt. Cake Mixture,
10 jars Butter Marcaroons,
1 jar Onions,
1 tin Jam,
1 tin Marmalade,
30 cases Mandarins,

General.

780 visits were made during the year to the
Public Abattoir for meat inspection,

198 visits were made during the year to other
food premises.

HOUSING:

A summary of the work carried out under this
heading is as follows :-

Number of council houses constructed	Nil
Number of private houses constructed	86
Number of houses inspected for defects	163
Number of inspections made	262
Number of informal notices served	36
Number of statutory notices served :-	
(a) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	3
(b) under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	-
(c) under Public Health Act, 1936	1
Number of dwellings rendered fit	37

HOUSING (cont'd).

Clearance of Sub-Standard Housing.

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	280
Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses above	10
Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	149

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

Although the district has continued to expand, a weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained without additional staff. Disposal was by controlled tipping at the rear of Forde Road by which means marshland is being reclaimed for future useful purposes.

RODENT CONTROL:

Methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have continued in use with an employee of this department carrying out the work on a part-time basis after having been trained.

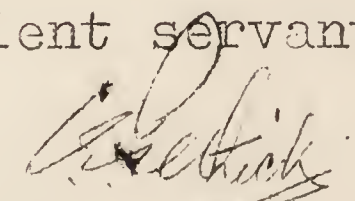
The sewerage system of the town was treated and 107 visits made to 40 premises at which infestation was found as a result of search or report.

STAFF:

No changes of staff have taken place during the year under review and Mr. Elliott and Mr. Ingram have dealt with duties in a most satisfactory manner.

In conclusion I would record my thanks to the Council for their consideration and support during the year and to colleagues for their co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient servant,


Chief Sanitary Inspector.

